



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY R. MURPHY
SECRETARY

PAUL J. COTE, JR.
COMMISSIONER

**Regulation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Permits Health Care Providers to Provide Immunization Records to
School Nurses without the Authorization of a Parent or Guardian**

A recent amendment to regulations of the MDPH, 105 CMR 300.000 Reportable Diseases, Surveillance, and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements, addresses a question raised under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To monitor and ensure compliance with immunization requirements for school entrance, the amendment grants school nurses the authority to obtain immunization records directly from health care providers, without the authorization of a parent or guardian, if they have been unable to obtain them through contacting the parent or guardian.

Under HIPAA (45 CFR § 164.512 (b)), health care providers are permitted to disclose immunization records to public health authorities that are authorized by law to collect such information for the purpose of controlling disease. The text of the new regulation is as follows:

105 CMR 300.191: Access to Medical Records and Other Information

(B) School nurses are authorized to obtain from health care providers the immunization records or other immunization related information required for school admission, without the authorization of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), as necessary to carry out the immunization requirements of M.G.L. c. 76, § 15. Prior to requesting such records from the provider, school nurses shall make a good faith effort to obtain the information from the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and shall notify them that the information will be obtained from the health care provider pursuant to 105 CMR 300.191 if it is not provided in a timely manner by the parent(s) or guardian(s). For purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), school nurses are hereby designated as public health authorities and granted authority to obtain immunization information from health care providers in accordance with 105 CMR 300.000 in order to monitor and ensure compliance with the immunization requirements of M.G.L. c. 76, § 15.